

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 072759

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TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072759

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF US

SUBJECT: DUTCH FONMIN'S VISIT TO ISRAEL - PRE-DEPARTURE
BRIEFING BY EMBASSY

REF: STATE 69910

1. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS IF YOU BELIEVE ANY FURTHER BRIEFING IS NEEDED.
2. BEGIN TALKING POINTS.

--U.S.GOVERNMENT AND SECRETARY PERSONALLY HAD BEEN SEEKING TO ASSIST PARTIES AT THEIR REQUEST TO ACHIEVE INTERIM AGREEMENT AS FURTHER STEP TOWARD JUST AND LASTING PEACE FOR ALL PEOPLES OF MIDDLE EAST. WE BELIEVED THAT SUCH STEP WOULD REPRESENT PROGRESS TOWARD OVERALL SETTLEMENT.

3. --BEGINNING MARCH 7, SECRETARY KISSINGER UNDERTOOK TWO WEEKS OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS IN AREA, DURING WHICH HE MET NUMBER OF TIMES WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND KEY MEMBERS OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 072759

ISRAELI CABINET. IMMEDIATE FOCUS WAS ON ACHIEVING FURTHER

STEP TOWARD ADDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL AND PEACE BETWEEN EGYPT
AND ISRAEL.

4. --SECRETARY MET TWICE WITH PRESIDENT ASAD, WHOM HE
ASSURED OF OUR CONVICTION THAT IT IS NEITHER OUR INTENTION
NOR IN OUR INTEREST TO DIVIDE ARAB WORLD AND THAT SETTLE-
MENT MUST INCLUDE ALL PARTIES TO THAT CONFLICT. SECRETARY
ALSO CONSULTED WITH KING HUSSEIN AND KING FAISAL.

5. --IT WAS UNFORTUNATELY NOT POSSIBLE IN COURSE OF THIS
EFFORT TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PARTIES ON CERTAIN
KEY ISSUES, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR ISRAEL'S DESIRE TO
MOVE TOWARD END OF BELLIGERENCY IN RETURN FOR SUBSTANTIAL
FURTHER WITHDRAWAL AND EGYPT'S NEED TO RECOVER POSSESSION
OF SINAI OIL FIELDS AND PASSES.

6. --IN OUR VIEW NEGOTIATIONS COULD NOT BE CONCLUDED BE-
CAUSE BOTH SIDES REACHED LIMITATIONS OF THEIR POLITICAL
POSSIBILITIES. IT IS TRAGEDY IN THAT WE BELIEVE LEADERS
ON BOTH SIDES WANTED AGREEMENT.

7. --ISRAELIS FACED DILEMMA THAT ANY STEP TOWARD SETTLEMENT
IS INHERENTLY ASYMMETRICAL, SINCE ISRAEL MUST GIVE UP TER-
RITORY IN RETURN FOR ESSENTIALLY INTANGIBLE CONCESSIONS BY
ARABS. OUR POSITION WAS THAT WHILE NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN
ISRAEL AND AN ARAB NEIGHBOR CAN BE BASED ON ABSOLUTE
EQUITY, WHAT WAS TO BE GAINED WAS CONTINUATION OF PROCESS
THAT WOULD ENABLE U.S., ISRAEL, AND MODERATE ARABS TO
MAINTAIN CENTRAL POSITION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

8. --EGYPTIANS HAD TO CONSIDER EFFECT OF WHATEVER STEP
THEY MIGHT TAKE ON OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS WITH INTEREST IN
NEGOTIATION, PARTICULARLY SYRIA.

9. --WE CONCLUDED THAT PERIOD OF REASSESSMENT WAS NEEDED
SO THAT ALL CONCERNED CAN CONSIDER HOW BEST TO PROCEED.
UNITED STATES WILL BE REVIEWING QUESTION OF WHAT APPROACH
SHOULD BE FOLLOWED IN MONTHS AHEAD. THERE WILL INEVITABLY
BE MANY CHARGES AND COUNTERCHARGES ABOUT REASONS FOR SUS-
PENSION OF THIS PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE WILL AVOID AND
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PAGE 03 STATE 072759

WE ARE URGING OTHERS TO AVOID HASTY CONCLUSIONS, TO KEEP
DOOR OPEN FOR NEW APPROACHES, AND TO JUDGE U.S. POLICY BY
OUR ACTIONS AS SITUATION EVOLVES.

10. --UNITED STATES REMAINS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE TO SEEK
FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. IT IS OUR FIRM CONVICTION
THAT DOOR FOR FURTHER PROGRESS MUST BE KEPT OPEN, AND IT
IS OUR INTENTION TO DO SO AS WE CONSIDER WHAT NEW APPROACH

MIGHT BEST SERVE CAUSE OF PEACE IN AREA. ACHIEVEMENT OF
JUST AND LASTING PEACE REMAINS OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE OF
AMERICAN POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST. END TALKING POINTS. KISSINGER

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